

ADMIRALS LAND IN TRINIDAD

U. S. FLAG OFFICERS EXCHANGE VISITS WITH GOV. JACKSON.

All Well on the Battleships and Men Enthusiastic After Quick Voyage—Fine Spectacle as Fleet Entered Port—Christmas Plans—The Torpedo Flotilla.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Dec. 24.—Rear Admiral Evans, Rear Admiral Emory, commanding the second division of the battle fleet; Rear Admiral Thomas, commanding the third division, and Rear Admiral Sperry, commanding the fourth division, together with the members of their staffs, went ashore to-day and proceeded to Government House, where they paid the usual formal call to Sir H. M. Jackson, Governor of the colony.

The Governor, who is just recovering from the effects of a surgical operation, at the request of Admiral Evans returned the visit at the Queen's Park Hotel, as the trip to the flagships would have been too fatiguing for him in his present condition.

A number of the officers were received at the barracks of the constabulary by the officers of the corps.

The battleship fleet under command of Rear Admiral Evans reached its first port of call in its 11,000 mile voyage to the Pacific yesterday afternoon a full day ahead of schedule.

The ships entered the harbor in four divisions, and steaming past the city came to an anchorage in the Gulf of Paria about four miles from Port of Spain. The fleet made a fine spectacle as it swept through the Dragon's Mouth and down the harbor. The ships came to anchor in splendid form, all the anchors dropping simultaneously with a splash.

The usual port ceremonies followed at once. The harbor master and health officer of the British colonial city called and practice was granted without delay.

Admiral Evans gave shore liberty to the first class men. Two thousand of them from the various ships spent the day in town or about the island enjoying themselves after the usual custom of seamen.

The voyage from Hampton Roads was successful and uneventful.

The entire fleet witnessed a burial at sea on Sunday. Robert Pines, a seaman of the Alabama, who enlisted in Dallas in August, died of meningitis. The columns came to a stop, flags were half-masted and three volleys fired as the body was committed to the sea.

The Missouri was detached to San Juan and the Illinois to Culebra, each to take a member of the crew who was ill to hospital, subsequently rejoining the fleet.

The Yankton was unable to keep up with the battleships and by Saturday was so far behind that she was out of sight. She came into the harbor at midnight Monday, eight hours behind, and anchored with the fleet.

Admiral Evans conducted a briquette test on the Connecticut for six hours on Sunday.

After passing out of the capes the fleet sailed for two days in four column formation, then proceeded in two column formation until approaching the coast, when single column was the order.

Heavy swells were encountered above St. Thomas. From there on strong trade winds, with occasional brief showers, were met. Otherwise the weather was clear and fine.

There was constant drilling, routine drills by day and practice in signalling at night. A proclamation has been made to all ships regarding the Neptune equinox ceremonies. It gives warning that "all loudspeakers, polywags and sea lawyers" will be unable to escape the initiation. Men with families were ordered to make wills, and three-fourths of all the crews will be ducked and barbered.

The Minnesota will entertain all the officers in the afternoon on Christmas Day. There will be racing and boxing and a general jubilation on every ship.

Cooling started at daylight to-day. The coal consumption during the trip here was slightly below expectation.

Yesterday and to-day were pay days aboard the fleet.

The men are in high spirits over the prospect of a trip around the world.

The torpedo flotilla was to have sailed for Rio Janeiro this morning, but the start was checked again, as the Whipple damaged her propeller as soon as she got into motion. The Lawrence disabled her valve gear eighty miles west of Trinidad on Sunday and the flotilla returned for repairs to her.

The Whipple buried a seaman of Hatteras. His death was caused by alcoholism. Another of the Whipple's men went insane.

Two men of the Hull's crew went adrift in a dory in the Gulf of Paria on Monday and were given up for lost. A search was kept up, however, and they were recovered that night.

The Hopkins encountered a derelict off Hatteras and slightly damaged her propeller. Generally speaking the people of Trinidad are not displaying any enthusiasm over the coming of the American fleet.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Secretary of the Navy Metcalf sent the following Christmas greeting by telegraph to Rear Admiral Evans, commanding the Atlantic fleet, at Port of Spain, Trinidad:

"The Department extends to you and the officers and the men of your command best wishes for a merry Christmas.

"METCALF."

MRS. MONTGOMERY BURNED THEM

Explanation of the Disappearance of the Banker's Vouchers.

No witnesses were examined yesterday by the Grand Jury in its investigation of the affairs of the Hamilton Bank, which went into the hands of a receiver on October 23. The investigation will be continued next month.

An explanation has been made to the District Attorney's office of how the vouchers and deposit slips of William R. Montgomery's account with the bank, of which he was vice-president and a director, were destroyed. Montgomery says that the deposit slips and vouchers were sent from the bank to his home, and his wife, not wishing that he should have too much notoriety, destroyed them.

The bank's records of the account remain on its books.

After all, CARRER'S the Scotch has made the lightest famous.—A.S.

ERIE CUTS WAGES

Of High Officers and Administrative Employees Drawing More Than \$600 Monthly.

The Erie Railroad announced yesterday a cut of 2 to 5 per cent. in the wages of administrative employees. The cut affects all the high officers of the road and all the others drawing more than \$600 a month, except those whose wages are fixed annually in conference between labor unions and the company.

President Underwood, it was said, is affected to the amount of \$5,000 a year by the adjustment. All of the other executive officers suffer. The higher rates of cut affect those highest paid, the lower rates those working for salaries under \$200 a month.

The cut will affect between 1,700 and 1,800 employees. They were notified some weeks ago of the new wage scale.

President Underwood said that, in common with other railroads, the Erie had less business than it had several months ago and consequently less than the same time last year, when there were complaints that cars could not be built fast enough to meet the demands both in the freight and passenger service. In the last three months the railroads all over the country had been experiencing a gradual reversal of the conditions of last year.

"Broadly stated," he said, "it may be said that the new schedule affects all classes of our employees earning over \$600 a month except those with whom we have contracts, such as the engineers, firemen, trainmen, conductors and telegraphers. It is a question of lowering wages or laying off more people. We have had to do both here and there among our force several times already, and there are a large number of people who have been thrown idle through the slackening of trade and therefore of the demand for men. We do not wish this state of affairs, but we cannot prevent it."

On behalf of the Trunk Line Association it was said that on one road alone 2,300 fewer cars were in use yesterday than on the same day last year.

KILLS NUN AT HOSPITAL DOOR

Insane Man Shoots Down Sister Who Had Nursed Him When Ill.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 24.—Gustaf Wirth, a marine fireman, 33 years old, shot and instantly killed Sister Theresa in the entrance of St. Mary's Hospital this morning. He was arrested.

It is believed that he is insane and has been for a year or more. He told Chief Jensen that the doctors and nurses of St. Mary's Hospital had tried to poison and hypnotize him.

It is believed that Wirth had intended to kill Dr. W. E. Fox, acting surgeon of the United States Marine Hospital, which has a ward in St. Mary's. Wirth had recently threatened the doctor, also Dr. McInerney, and Orderly McDowell. Mr. Fox entered the hospital from the rear to-day as Wirth came from the front door. Sister Cecilia answered the ring: "You aren't the one I want to see," said Wirth. Sister Theresa then went to the door. At the sight of her Wirth cried, "You're the one I'm looking for," and shot her three times.

TO REPLACE RUNAWAY AIRSHIP

The Ville de Paris Being Tested as Successor to La Patrie.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—After being tested by the military authorities in the neighborhood of Moulon, near Paris, the dirigible balloon Ville de Paris, which is owned by Henri de la Mothe, started for Verdun at 9:15 this morning with favorable weather.

It passed over Meaux, twenty-seven miles north-northeast of Paris, at 11:00 and returned to Paris at 12:45, going in the direction of Paris.

The balloon may take the place in the French frontier service which the lost La Patrie was to have taken.

When the balloon was fifty-five miles from Paris the wind, which had been blowing from the southwest, veered to the east and became so strong that it was found impossible to reach Verdun before night. Consequently the balloon returned. The current voyage was made in three or one-half hours and the return in one and one-half.

BIG INCREASE IN DESTITUION

State Board of Charities Reports Four Times the Usual Number of Cases.

ALBANY, Dec. 24.—At the office of the State Board of Charities statistics received from many organizations besides the county and town poor authorities indicate commitments to poor houses and public institutions of various sorts of persons out of work and unable to care for themselves four times the aggregate of other years at this season. Increases in the number of the needy are shown particularly in the figures received from New York city. Gains in the total of commitments are also noticed from the western part of the State. There is no such increase shown in the figures from the central sections of New York or from the rural districts. The increases are ascribed to the business reaction following the financial disturbances.

Mrs. Russell Sage was among recent callers at the department of the State Board of Charities. Mrs. Sage called to inform herself the better of what was being done through the great central authority in the State's charitable work.

BLUE FLAME IN SUBWAY

It Burned Badly Printer O'Brien, Who Was Sitting Over It.

Joseph W. O'Brien, a printer living at 811 Tremont avenue, The Bronx, boarded a northbound subway train at the Forty-second street station at 5:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon and paring his coat tails dropped down on a side seat right over one of the electric radiators. The train was just pulling into the Fifth street station when O'Brien yelled and sprang from his seat, stepping himself behind.

The wickerwork of the seat was ablaze, and blue flame was darting up from the radiator. Several passengers went to O'Brien's assistance, while the guards beat out the fire in the car seat. The radiator had short circuited and burned out. The car was well filled with passengers, and for a few seconds there was a lot of excitement.

O'Brien left the car at the Fifth street station. An ambulance took him to Roosevelt Hospital, where it was said that he was badly burned.

ONE TO HELP BRYAN HUNT

Arrested, Tex., Dec. 24.—Gov. Campbell

left to-day for Lake Surprise, where he will be joined by William Jennings Bryan to-morrow for a week's hunting. Gov. Campbell took two bear guns and he hopes Col. Bryan will get a shot at a bear.

KIVER FULL OF LOST SHEEP

MANY CATTLE TOO DROWN WHEN BARGE TAKES IN WATER.

She Lists and the Deck Goes Gave Way—Some That Didn't Go Overboard Drown on the Lower Deck—Hard Work for the Reef Savers at the Finish of It.

Somewhere in New York Bay, between South Brooklyn and Jersey and between the Battery and the Atlantic Ocean, are a few hundred sheep and a hundred or so of cattle, floating about and drifting ashore at the whim of current and tide. By this time some of them may have started for the broad Atlantic.

The chain of events which led up to the sprinkling of beef and mutton over the waters of the bay began early yesterday morning when the cattle float or barge No. 500 of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company started from the railroad's stock yards at Jersey City to the yards of the United Dressed Beef Company at the foot of Forty-third street, Brooklyn, with 1,000 head of sheep and 365 head of cattle. The float was towed by the railroad's tug Genesee.

About 4 o'clock in the morning, off Thirty-sixth street, South Brooklyn, the float for some reason began to list badly, and in a moment both tug and float were in danger of capsizing.

"Cut the lines!" shouted Capt. Eddie Shoales of the float to Capt. Eddie Simma of the Genesee, which was done. The float had already shipped a large amount of water, which was pouring in on the frightened animals on the lower deck.

"Go to Forty-third street and tell the railroad to send help!" shouted Capt. Eddie Shoales to Capt. Eddie Simma, and the Genesee started away at top speed.

The crew of the cattle float consists of one man, the captain, so Capt. Eddie Shoales was alone with the terrified cattle and sheep—and the float was still listing badly and taking in more water. The water was driving the sheep and cattle to one side, and they were pretty well packed in at that; so the first thing Capt. Eddie knew the slats at the after end of the pens were coming loose or were broken through, and the float in its drifting was leaving behind it a wake of bloating, howling, swimming, drowning creatures, while in the pens of the lower deck the only safety for the brutes from the water was secured by climbing on the mass of already drowning brutes.

Pennsylvania tugboat No. 11 came along and wanted to know what was the matter. On finding out, she picked up No. 500 with its cargo, with its dead and dying and with Capt. Eddie Shoales, and towed all the way up to Arkville's stores.

A bridge was hastily thrown together and the task of saving what could be saved of the living cargo was begun. The sheep weren't so very hard to handle—some 500 were pulled out of the two decks of the float and corralled near by. But when it came to the cattle it was a different matter.

Capt. Frank Gripp, who alternates with Capt. Eddie Shoales in command of No. 500, was on the job by this time, and the pair of them with what help could be secured tried to get out the cattle. A derrick was rigged up and a sling finally got around a steer. He was hoisted out of the water and then began to make things interesting on land. Two men went down before he was finally subdued and attention could be given to the next.

His successor was little easier to get along with—a terrified steer is about the limit according to the evidence of those who did the work yesterday morning. In fact, these men aver that each steer was a little worse than the one that came before him. And still the dead were being crowded out of the broken pens and were floating out into the river.

When every living thing had been lifted out of the float it was found that ninety-two of the 365 cattle had been saved. The beef company couldn't very well identify the shipment, so the ninety-two cattle and the 600 sheep were released on another float and taken back to Jersey City.

Then No. 500 was towed to Crane's dry dock at the foot of Forty-third street and all the way down bodies of sheep and cattle would rise to the level of the gap and float and away. But there are still many dead brutes in the float—perhaps half of them are still there; no one can tell just how many have been given to the waters of the harbor until the barge is raised. For she is now lying in 10 feet of water with only her upper deck showing.

WHAT THE "LID" DID IN ST. LOUIS

Sunday Law Enforcement Causes 700 Saloons to Quit Business.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 24.—Thomas E. Mulvihill, State Excise Commissioner, this afternoon gave out a statement showing the effect of the enforcement of the Sunday closing laws in this city, where the police board and license officials were appointed by Gov. Joseph W. Eoff, the real author of the Sunday "lid."

Commissioner Mulvihill says that 300 more St. Louis saloons will close when their licenses expire January 1, making 700 saloons driven out of business here in three years by the enforcement of the Sunday closing law. He says that 250 lid lifting clubs, which sprang up to replace Sunday closed saloons, have also been closed, only twenty-five now remaining.

One thousand five hundred of the 2,300 saloons here, he says, are not paying investments since the removal of card tables, betting rings and wine rooms as the result of the rigid enforcement of the statutes.

"The time has come," says Commissioner Mulvihill, "when it does not pay to conduct a dramsoph here on a small scale. Only the large saloons in the business district are paying the profits expected by men who will conduct saloons."

Steamship Attached on a \$1,000,000 Claim

The Steamship Regina d'Italia of the Lloyd Sabauda Societa Anonima di Navigazione,

lying at the foot of Grand street, Jersey City, has been attached by Sheriff John C. Kaiser's men on a writ issued out of the Hudson Circuit Court at the instance of Hugh L. Lutz, agent of Sir James Laing & Sons, Limited, shipbuilders of Sunderland, on a claim amounting to \$1,007,000. The ship is valued at \$400,000. The claim is said to be a balance due for the construction of ships.

FLORIDA AND CAROLINA RESORTS

Submerged Air Line, Earle Inc. Not Allowed to Reopen at 100,000. 1100 N. W. 10th St., Jacksonville, Fla.

NO TREE IN THE WHITE HOUSE

Quiet Christmas Planned for Members of the President's Family.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Christmas Day at the White House will be celebrated without formality by the President and the members of his family, no guests except relatives being expected to share in the festivities. In the morning the members of the President's family will enjoy the distribution of presents in the library, but there will be no Christmas tree. The President's children, including Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, his oldest daughter, will spend the day at home. Mrs. Longworth has recovered from the recent operation for appendicitis and was able to walk about the White House to-day.

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt will probably go out into the country for a horseback ride to-morrow afternoon. In the evening the President and his family will dine at the usual hour, and a savory dish will be made of one of the fat possums sent to Mr. Roosevelt by Mrs. Longworth, widow of the Confederate General.

The decision was given in the cases of the officials of the New Mexico and Pagosa Lumber companies, and the ruling of the Court from some of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of Colorado.

While it was also a forerunner of the quashing of practically every indictment secured by the Government for alleged fraudulent coal and timber land entries in Colorado, Government officials declare they will continue their investigations and their efforts to secure further indictments in the belief that the Supreme Court will not sustain Judge Lewis.

Judge Lewis in his opinion said: "How can we say that it is a criminal fraud for an intended qualified entryman after his application to contract to sell in future the lands he has made application for with an honest purpose to acquire and to obtain from his prospective purchaser the funds to make payment? Such contract has been held valid when made even before the vendor had entered or made application."

Judge Lewis further declared that the acts charged were not prohibited in the timber and stone act and added: "We cannot by construction hold the acts to be changed in violation of said statute, and therefore illegal or unlawful for the purpose of constituting the fraud denounced by section 5410."

The Court further holds that the entrymen are not alleged to have been disqualified to act as such; also that the crime charged "must be violative of both, the statute of the spirit and of the policy of the statute."

He expressly declined to be bound by civil case rulings.

As to the duplicity charge, the Court adds that if there is no duplicity charge when the crime of conspiracy, which is alleged to have begun in August, 1899, is barred by the statute of limitation, Judge Lewis concludes:

"Therefore if we take the first view the charge is duplicative, and if the second, prosecution is barred. The dilemma rendered the indictment bad. The motion and demurrer are sustained."

The decision, Federal attorneys say, is in direct variance with the policy of the United States Land Office and if sustained will mean a revolution in the acquisition of public lands. The ruling does not affect the equity suits brought by the Government, but attorneys in those cases say that Judge Lewis' ruling if applied will continue to bar the Government lands in the parties who now control them.

In effect the ruling is that it is not a crime or violation of law to purchase land after application for entry is made, which was the basis of the conspiracy charge in all these cases.

"The Court recognizes the illegality and criminality of dealing with prospective entrymen prior to applications," said Attorney Knaebel, "inasmuch as the statute itself is explicit on that point. The decision on other points is contrary to the holdings of the Interior Department and raises questions of such importance that it will be carried to the Supreme Court to settle the issues involved for all time."

"This decision calls a halt in land fraud prosecutions in Colorado until the Supreme Court passes on the cases and means the quashing of indictments against sixty or more defendants indicted for alleged coal land frauds."

TOM JOHNSON'S FRANK THREAT.

Plans for City to Run Electric Company and Then Buy It.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 24.—Mayor Tom L. Johnson to-day declared that his administration would bend its energies to bring about a municipal monopoly of electric lighting in Cleveland. That legislation empowering the city to enter the field will be sought in the General Assembly this winter and that he plans to make eventually the city owner of the Cleveland Illuminating Company by merger with the city's little electric lighting plant, once owned by the village of South Brooklyn, which was annexed to Cleveland some time ago, was announced by the Mayor to Samuel Scoville, manager of the Cleveland Illuminating Company.

He summoned Scoville to the City Hall to ask his signature to a written consent that the General Electric Company might bid on supplies wanted by the city for its electric plant.

"Why?" asked Scoville, whose company is said to have the General Electric Company no tightly held by contracts it could not bid in Cleveland without consent.

"We're going to have a municipally owned plant covering the entire city," said Mayor Johnson. "Eventually we will buy your company."

"Why not buy it now?" "Oh, I believe competition will make it cheaper for us to buy you out, so we will spread the Brooklyn plant for a time. We will seek legislation and then will compete with you and finally buy you."

Southern Man to Speak of Lincoln.

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 24.—The Union League Club of Brooklyn, N. Y., has invited Bishop Charles B. Galloway to speak at its Abraham Lincoln birthday celebration February 12. The Bishop is a great admirer of Lincoln and would treat his subject from the standpoint of the foremost thinkers of the South.

Drowned in His Diving Suit.

OTTAWA, Dec. 24.—D. J. Hamilton, a diver at work at Fort William, Ontario, was engaged on the G. T. R. bridge at West Fort when he was drowned to-day and was many feet below the surface. His diving dress burst in some way and he was drowned.

LANDFRAUD INDICTMENTS VOID

U. S. JUDGE HOLDS THAT NO CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED.

Government Officials Astounded by Decision That Entries and Sales Hereof Are Valid—Will Appeal to Supreme Court.

DENVER, Dec. 24.—Judge Robert E. Lewis in the United States District Court this morning quashed the indictments in the Colorado timber and land cases and indicated that he would take the same action in the coal land cases.

The opinion is declared to be revolutionary by the Government officials, and Attorney-General Bonaparte was telegraphed to for permission to appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

The decision was given in the cases of the officials of the New Mexico and Pagosa Lumber companies, and the ruling of the Court from some of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of Colorado.

While it was also a forerunner of the quashing of practically every indictment secured by the Government for alleged fraudulent coal and timber land entries in Colorado, Government officials declare they will continue their investigations and their efforts to secure further indictments in the belief that the Supreme Court will not sustain Judge Lewis.

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SHORE, HE'S WELL FIXED

Alleged Pickpocket Shows \$14,000 Worth of Yacht Money.

Charles Shore, alias Joseph Frank, who the police say is a well known pickpocket, was arrested on Monday afternoon at the Fourteenth street entrance to the subway by Detective Cain of the Central Office. He was charged with having no visible means of support, but when arraigned in the Tombs police court yesterday he was charged with having produced eight bank books showing a total deposit of \$14,000.

"I've own all that money!" cried the Magistrate. "I do, your Honor," was the answer. Shore was at once discharged.

TEDDY BEAR CRAZE IS OVER

The Little Bear, Returning to Other Stuffed Animals and to Dais.

When the department stores closed last night and most of the stores in the toy departments were exhausted by the Christmas rush, there were still lots of Teddy bears in sight. The craze for "en is over, and the stores and factories are loaded up with a stock of them that will probably soon adorn the bargain counters.

Teddy bears may still be seen in the arms of youngsters who like them, but they are smart no longer. Girls who forsake dolls for the furry bears are going back to their original preferences and their old brocades are taking kindly to stuffed bulldogs with ferocious muzzled jaws, fox terriers with saucy hearts, monkeys, rabbits, elephants and the like. Any sort of a stuffed animal, in fact, except bear has had a good sale this winter. The youngsters simply have had enough of Teddy bears and are taking up something else.

JAIL AND FINE FOR DRAMATIST

Giannino Traversi Convicted of Libel on Italian Theatre Trust Head.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

TURIN, Dec. 24.—Giannino Traversi, the prominent novelist and dramatist, has been sentenced to fifteen months imprisonment and to a fine of \$600 for libel.

There has been a fierce controversy for nearly a year between the Society of Authors and Playwrights and the theatrical trust, which is consolidating throughout Italy, Signor Ricordi, the head of the trust, sued Signor Traversi for defamation of character arising from this fight.

REWARD FOR TOBACCO BURNERS

Gov. Wilson Begins Campaign to Punish Kentucky Raiders.